

Holmwood House School



School Development Plan Update to Parents No. 4 December 2019

In the autumn term 2018, we presented our [School Development Plan](#), and sent you updates to that plan in December 2018, March and June 2019.

The areas of development have been centred around these themes:

- Curriculum Development
- Academic Rigour
- Assessment and Reporting
- Senior School Preparation
- Pastoral Care
- Parental Support
- Staff Development
- School Site

I have updated the feedback below based on ongoing developments this term. If you have any questions regarding this update, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes

Alexander Mitchell
Headmaster

Development Plan Update - December 2019

The following feedback aims to update parents on recent progress as well as highlighting further areas for development in 2020.

● Curriculum Development

- The development of thematic learning is working extremely well. Pupils are engaged and excited by their learning and strong links are being made between bodies of knowledge and the wider world.
- The exciting Global Studies curriculum is developing strong subject knowledge, skills and understanding in the areas of history, geography and PRE, whilst drawing connections between those subjects and with the world in which we live.
- A [Curriculum Map](#) for the whole year has been shared with parents and is available on the website.
- The new arrangements in Years 4 and 5 are working very well; improving the transition from class teaching to specialist teaching.

● Academic Rigour

- Teachers focus on challenge within all areas of the curriculum.
- Continued high expectations of all pupils; development of higher-order thinking skills; high levels of core skills/mastery; encouraging intellectual curiosity.
- Thorough analysis of assessment data enables teachers to identify and address gaps.
- Use of additional assessment data enables teachers to plan more effectively for future learning within subject frameworks.
- Development of the application of learning to new/different contexts is encouraged, especially when done independently.
- There is now a [Stretch & Challenge area on the website](#) to ensure independent study is meaningful and beneficial.

● Assessment & Reporting

- Parents are now sent an annual report (in the summer) showing national benchmarking through the use of standardised tests (CAT4, PTE, PTM, NGRT, PASS)
- Parents attended an information evening about Assessment at Holmwood and the video of this talk is available on the website. (Parent Secure Area - password: crown). An accompanying [letter](#) explains Holmwood's approach to Assessment.
- Improvement of the use of assessment data to identify next steps and enhance pupil progress.
- A new reporting and consultation [schedule](#) is in place for 2019-20 to ensure most appropriate points of communication with parents.

● Senior School Preparation

- Clarity of approach for parents - two parent workshops ('Understanding Years 7 & 8' and 'Looking Ahead to Senior Schools' in the autumn term)
- Introduction of familiarisation sessions in the activities slot to support senior school entrance
- Greater clarity of process for academic and non-academic scholarship routes available on the website [here](#).

● Pastoral Care

- Continued development of pupil mentoring throughout the school using twice yearly tutor/tutee mentoring sessions.

- Introduction of PASS data (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) and follow up with individual pupils to monitor pupils' levels of happiness, self-regard, etc.
- **Parental Support**
 - Parent Workshops - Welcome to Reception, Introduction to Years 1 to 3, Year 4 Induction afternoon, Relationship and Sex Education - Wednesday 8 January 2020 at 8.45am, Assessment, Looking Ahead to Senior Schools, Understanding Years 7 & 8, Revision and Study Skills Workshop.
 - The introduction of the Weekly Bulletin in addition to the Newsletter is aimed at giving parents ONE place to go to for vital information on a weekly basis.
 - Development of the Parent Portal for communication of assessment data and reports - ongoing
 - New parent/teacher email communication protocol introduced in September 2019.
 - Continued development of our social media output now including Instagram.
- **Staff Development**
 - New leadership structure supporting pupils, staff and parents through improved communication and whole school organization.
 - Increased training opportunities have included Bellevue emerging leaders, senior leaders, coaching, learning reviews, and assessment.
 - Enhanced internal training schedule supports main focus on assessment, academic rigour and pupil progress.
 - Staff wellbeing group established to ensure staff are happy in the workplace.
- **School Site**
 - Refurbishment of the Early Years building to house our new Pre-Reception class was successfully completed earlier this term and now provides extremely high quality accommodation for the youngest pupils on site.
 - The creation of a new, single staffroom in the library block has enabled greater continuity of planning, communication and organisation.

Next Steps

We will continue to communicate updates to parents showing where developments have taken place and how they impact on their children's learning. We hope this is helpful to parents. We will issue a questionnaire about communications in the new year as well as the annual full school and nursery parent surveys in February 2020.